

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05452 261747Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 597

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5452

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FOR ASSISTANT SEC HARTMAN FROM AMB COOPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GE

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF GDR

REF: STATE 067997

1. DUE TO PREPARATION FOR VISIT OF TWO GROUPS FROM CONGRESS ARRIVING THIS WEEK END FOR STAY OF SEVERAL DAYS, THE ASSESSMENT I INDICATED IN MY MESSAGE OF MARCH 21 WILL NOT BE COMPLETE THIS WEEK. I HAVE PREPARED DRAFT OF MY ASSESSMENT BUT WANT TO CIRCULATE IT MAONG STAFF FOR THEIR CRITICAL JUDGMENTS. AS YOU SUGGEST IN YOUR MESSAGE OF 26 MARCH, IT WILL BE SENT BY CABLE.

2. RESPONDING TO YOUR SUGGESTION THAT I INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY OF IMPROPRIETY OF ITS PRESS RELEASE ON MY MEETING WITH HONECKER, I REQUEST THAT THIS NOT BE DONE. MY REPORT DETAILS A RATHER BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS WE DISCUSSED, ALL INCLUDED IN THE SEPTEMBER 4 AGREEMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING U.S. PROPERTY CLAIMS. AS I INFORMED DEPARTMENT THE WORD "COEXISTENCE" WAS NOT USED IN OUR MEETING. BECAUSE TIME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05452 261747Z

HAS ELAPSED AND HONECKER MAY CONSIDER THE WORD

"COEXISTENCE" TO BE SYNONYMOUS WITH "DETENTE" "DETENTE" BEING THE WORD USED AGAIN AND AGAIN BY HIM, I BELIEVE RAISING THE SUBJECT NOW WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE OR HELPFUL. OF COURSE IF IN ANY FURTHER TALKS IMPROPER WORDS ARE USED OR INCORRECT PRESS REPORTS ISSUED, IT WOULD BE A PROPER OCCASION TO MAKE A PROTEST. HONECKER HAD MADE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING, SUCH AS INVITING PHOTOGRAPHERS AND TELEVISION PERSONNEL WHICH HAS NOT OCCURRED IN ANY OTHER MEETING, EXCEPT WITH STOPH, AND HERETOFORE NO PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED EXCEPT THE PUBLICATION OF THE REMARKS OF STOPH AND MYSELF AT MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.

3. AS I HAVE NOW HAD APPOINTMENTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE STOPH, FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER AND AN INFORMAL MEETING, AT HIS REQUEST, WITH SINDERMANN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND WITH GOTTING, CHAIRMAN OF CDU AND PRESIDENT OF THE VOLKSKAMMER. I RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE RECEIVE SIEBER, THE GDR AMBASSADOR. SIEBER NOTED ON FEBRUARY 13 THAT HE HAD CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SENATOR EASTLAND, SPEAKER ALBERT, SENATOR HUGH SCOTT AND EXPECTED TO CALL ON SENATOR MANSFIELD. WE HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER. I MAKE THESE SUGGESTIONS BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE GDR ATTACHES TO RECIPROCITY. MORE IMPORTANT IT ALSO PROVIDES ME AND MEMBERS OF THE STAFF THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE MEETINGS WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE GDR WHEN NECESSARY FOR U.S. INTERESTS. SUCH MEETINGS PROVIDE ALSO AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF MAKING A CORRECT ASSESSMENT OF THE GDR SYSTEM, ITS DYNAMICS AND CONTRIBUTE TOWARD US/GDR RELATIONS, THE LARGER QUESTION OF THE RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND THE MATTER OF DETENTE. AS GDR OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GENEROUS IN TALKS WITH THE EMBASSY, I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE MEETINGS I HAVE SUGGESTED BE ARRANGED.

4. UNTIL AN ASSESSMENT IS RECEIVED BY STATE DEPARTMENT, I REQUEST THAT MY PROPOSAL (BERLIN 5417) FOR MEETING BETWEEN LIMITED NUMBER OF US/GDR TRADE EXPERTS--POSSIBLY LIMITED TO FELIX BLOCH, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 05452 261747Z

TRADE REMAINS PENDING FOR DECISION. IT WOULD PROVIDE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE TRADE REFORM ACT, THE DIFFERING TRADING SYSTEMS, YET GIVE FULL RECOGNITION OF TRADING POSSIBILITIES--SMALL AS THEY MAY BE BUT VERY IMPORTANT. IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE GDR, WHILE EXPECTING TOO MUCH IN THE WAY OF TRADE AND WITH THE EVIDENT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF SIEBER REGARDING THE TRADE ACT CONSIDERS THAT THE U.S. IS NOT DEALING IN GOOD FAITH WITH THE ISSUE. THIS ATMOSPHERE NEEDS

TO BE CLEAR. I WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILS AND OTHER
REASONS IN MY FORTHCOMING ASSESSMENT.COOPER

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